

# STORMWATER

MURDER  
UNDER THE  
MICROSCOPE



These activities will give you and your group some valuable information which might help you when solving the crime.

Look for and collect articles or advertisements relating to stormwater. These might show how widespread and how serious stormwater issues can be.

## Stormwater drains

Look at these pictures which show different kinds of drainage.



- Where have you seen drains like these?
- What are drains like these designed to do?
- Where does the water in these drains come from?



# Where does stormwater come from? Where does it go?



Imagine a heavy storm in this area.

- Where will the raindrops land?
- What happens to the rain that falls on the playing field?
- What happens to the rain that falls on the factory roof?
- What happens to the rain that falls on the roads?
- Where does all the water from the area end up?

## Maybe it's not just stormwater?

Talk about what might be hitch-hiking in the stormwater system. Brainstorm and record your ideas in a mind map.

Leaves

In the  
stormwater  
system...

Rubbish



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## Are there things you can't see in stormwater?

What is happening in this picture?

Where will the dirty car wash water end up?

Talk about the other kinds of activities that may be going on around the different parts of the drainage system.

What could they be adding to the stormwater?



## What is stormwater?



Using the internet and other sources of information find out what you can about stormwater. Write a clear definition of what stormwater is. What does contamination mean? How does water become contaminated?

## Activity: What else may be in the water?



Be prepared. This may take a while to finish. Conduct a survey at a stormwater intake point. This might be in a gutter, a creek or part of a road system. Make a list of the things you find. (Your local council may be able to provide an excursion for you, or provide you with information.) Consult your local council engineer and ask about the rubbish that is commonly found in stormwater. Make a list.

Here are some questions you could think about before doing this activity.

- *What are we looking for?*
- *Will there be times of the week/day that might be better to run the survey or ring the engineer? When will they be?*
- *How will we present the information of what we find out?*



These sites might be useful:

<http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/file/inform/intro.pdf>

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/OurSystemsandOperations/StormwaterManagement/>

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/Education/PrimaryStudents/>

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/Education/SecondaryStudents/>

## Extension activity

Describe what you saw in the survey of the stormwater intake point. For example, you may have found rubbish items like cigarette butts or plastic shopping bags. Using rubber gloves, analyse and list the rubbish items. What effect would these items have on the water? Use the internet to further research the effects of the items on the quality of the water.

**Remember: The stormwater system can be very dangerous.**



## Sharing information



What have you found out that might help you understand the crime? Share this information with the other groups.

You will need to explain how flow can affect the waterways.

Prepare a presentation to get your message across to the rest of your team.